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22 April 2005

### UZB43519.FE

Uzbekistan: List of ERK political opponents who were killed by the authorities or who died in custody in 2004 (April 2005)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

According to information provided by an ERK press services representative, no member of the ERK party was killed by the authorities or died in custody in 2004 (18 Apr. 2005). The representative indicated that data compiled by the party's regional offices and headquarters in Tashkent could be different since the party is illegal in Uzbekistan and the list of party members is therefore updated unofficially (ERK 18 Apr. 2005).

Although not directly related to the death of ERK members in 2004, the following information may be of some use.

According to information obtained by the press services representative at the Tashkent office, Elomon Shukurov and Esmin Usmanov were killed in 1994 and 2003, respectively (ERK 18 Apr. 2005).

A 3 July 2001 article from Eurasianet indicated that a journalist by the name of Imin Usmanov was killed on 10 March 2001.

Moreover, *Country Reports 2004* indicated that "[p]olice harassed and sometimes arbitrarily detained members of the . . . ERK Party " (28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 1.d). "In May [2004], police reportedly arrested ERK Party activists in [the regions of] Namangan, Sukhandaria, and Bukhara" (*Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 1.d).

The government allegedly sporadically blocked access to the ERK's Website (ibid., Sec. 2.a). At the end of 2004, the ERK party leader was still in voluntary exile (ibid., Sec. 2.d).

Amnesty International indicated that "[i]n October [2003] the banned opposition ERK . . . party held a general meeting despite official attempts to obstruct it, including the brief detention of members" (2004).

The opposition party ERK split into three factions and "became much less active since mid 2003; however, [government] harassment was not as severe as in previous years, when authorities reportedly detained and subjected several ERK members to physical mistreatment, including torture" (*Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 3).

The ERK party Website can be consulted in English at the following address:  
<<http://www.uzbekistanerk.org/index.php?newlang=English>>.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

Amnesty International (AI). 2004. "Uzbekistan." *Amnesty International Report 2004*.  
<<http://web.amnesty.org/report2004/uzb-summary-eng>> [Accessed 11 Mar. 2005]

*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004*. 28 February 2005. "Uzbekistan." United States Department of State, Washington, DC. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41717.htm>> [Accessed 11 Mar. 2005]

ERK Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. 18 April 2005. Correspondence from a press services representative.

Eurasianet. 3 July 2001. "Journalists Struggle to Cope with Censorship in Uzbekistan."  
<<http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/rights/articles/eav070301.shtml>> [Accessed 21 Mar. 2005]

Additional Sources Consulted

**Oral sources:** The Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan could not provide information within the time constraints for this Response.

**Internet sites, including:** Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM), Craigmurray.co.uk, Ferghana.ru, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF), IRIN Asia News, MuhammadSalih.info, World News Connection.

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